

Kunkel, and Savannah Paladin; from Penn Hills High School, Jessica Clair, Nicolette Deighan, Krysty Kunkel, Dana Lyons, Chloe Regan, and Chloe Weiss; from Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, Dani Hicks, Jordan Keitel, David Newbury, April Post, Tsu Hung Tien, and Yan Yang; from Schenley High School, Maurice Campbell, Briana Jackson, Stephen Karas, Fatima Kizilkaya, and Monique Pressley; from South Allegheny High School, Alexis Carr, Kristen Kudla, Megan Stevens, and Stephanie Taylor; from Sto-Rox High School, Adam Wayne Baker, Travis Crump, Allison Funwela, Natalie Gamble, Orlando Russell, and Elizabeth Thornton; from Trinity Christian School, Rebekah Garard; from West Mifflin High School, Tori Cooper, Victoria Donahoe, and Natalie Kerrigan; and from Woodland Hills High School, Heather Evans, Elijah Johnson, Josh Rydzak, Stephan Spence, and Hoong Tosangchai.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD OETMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald Oetman as he retires as Director of UAW Region 1D. A celebration of Don's life and contributions to the UAW will be held on May 21st in Grand Rapids, MI.

Donald Oetman was part of the original group that organized Micromatic Textron in Holland, MI. In 1965 they formed Local 1502 when Don was only 20 years old. He served as Vice-President of the Local and two years later became its President. During this time he held the position of steward and ex-officio member of all standing committees at Local 1502 and served as vice-chairperson of the Allegan-Ottawa CAP Council for 12 years. Don remained the Local's President and its bargaining chairperson until he was appointed to the International Union staff by then UAW President Owen Bieber and Director Robert Flearman in 1984. In June 1995 he was appointed Assistant Director of Region 1—D and elected Director at the 33rd Constitutional Convention in 2002. He was re-elected in 2006.

Committed to community involvement, Don serves on the Board of Directors and the Labor Participation Committee of Greater Kalamazoo United Way and the Holland United Way. He is co-chair of the Muskegon Area Labor/Management Joint Committee, he is on the Board of Directors of Blue Care Network, sits on the Blue Care Network Audit Committee, serves on the Economic Alliance of Michigan Board of Directors and the Board for the Alliance of Health, the Kalamazoo Area Labor/Management Committee, the Red Cross Board, sits on the Board of the Michigan State University Labor Studies Program, the Holland United Labor Building Corporation, the Michi-

gan Association of United Ways, and the Private Industry Council of Allegan and Ottawa Counties. He is a lifelong member of the Coalition for Labor Union Women.

Don is a member of the Allegan County Democratic Party and the Michigan State Democratic Party. He was a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention and was an Al Gore Elector for the State of Michigan in the Electoral College. Don and his wife Corlyn have two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Donald Oetman. From the age of 18 he has acted to improve the lives and working conditions in our factories and offices and many people have benefitted from his commitment to the ideals of labor. I will miss his counsel and camaraderie and I wish him the best in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOSEPH PETERS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS REGION 1

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a lifelong champion of the American labor movement, Mr. Joseph Peters, Director of the United Auto Workers Region 1, on the occasion of his retirement from the UAW. As a Member of Congress, it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Mr. Peters for his many years of service and his contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Joe Peters has been a tireless advocate for his UAW brothers and sisters. Joe started his career as a member of Local 400, while working at the Ford Paint Plant in Mount Clemens. Joe became active in the UAW in the late 1960s when he moved to work at the Ford Utica Trim plant. While at Utica Trim, Joe was elected as the Midnight Committeeman, member of the Plant Bargaining Committee, Plant Chairman, Vice President of Local 400, and President of Local 400.

In 1988, Joe was appointed to the UAW International staff by President Owen Bieber and assigned to the National Ford Department. In 1999, Joe was appointed assistant director of Region 1 under Director Kenneth Terry. Joe served as assistant Director of Region 1 until 2005, when he was elected Director in a special election.

Joe has spent his career in support of civil rights and his community. Joe is a lifelong member of the NAACP, a member of the Troy Elks club, and a strong grassroots political leader. Joe has won numerous awards for his community activism including: Civil Rights Lifetime Achievement, ARC Detroit Legacy Award, Veterans Michigan Stand Down, and the UAW Region 1 Women's Council Circle of Excellence award. Moved by the increasingly difficult economic times facing Michigan families, Joe started the "No Child Without Christmas" foundation in 2004. His foundation brings together a broad spectrum of community leaders to provide clothing, food, and gifts for thou-

sands of homeless and abused children during the holiday season each year. Joe's commitment to his community has been his personal as well as his professional legacy.

Joe has spent his career in service of others, his UAW brothers and sisters, his community, and most importantly, his large and growing family. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. Joe Peters for his many contributions to our community and his leadership at the United Auto Workers Union. I wish him many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRVIEW SOUTH SCHOOL PENNIES FOR PEACE PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an extraordinary group of students in Skokie, Illinois.

I would like to recognize 6th grade students Lucas Brace, Alexander Brown, Soretti Donka, Lily Griffin, J.D. Kim, Rachel Sison, Kevin Thurman, Patricia Valdepenas, and Tessa Waters, as well as their SPINOUT reading teacher, Ms. Yolanda Toni. These sixth grade students were inspired, after reading Greg Mortensen's book *Three Cups of Tea*, to collect pennies from their classmates at Fairview South School for the charity Pennies for Peace.

Ms. Toni's nine students worked with the school's Student Council and teacher sponsors Ms. Katherine MacLennan and Ms. Christina Sylvester. They made presentations to each grade level about the program and encouraged other students at the school to participate. Over two months, the students raised an impressive \$1,524.26 for Pennies for Peace. They wrote letters to me and other elected officials explaining their program and urging us to also work to promote education for all children throughout the world.

Pennies for Peace is a fantastic charity, founded by Mortensen, that encourages students to collect their pennies, and, one cent at a time, to support education around the world. A penny might not seem like much money, but the students at Fairview South School demonstrated how quickly they can add up. This money will go to change the lives of students in Pakistan and Afghanistan and bring access to education and opportunity to girls and boys across the world.

The Fairview South students recognize that children in many places around the world do not have the same opportunities to attend school and gain an education as do kids in Skokie. Two students in the class wrote to me, and they eloquently argued that education is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat poverty, hopelessness, and violence.

One student wrote, "I know how it feels to want a good education that can get me further in life." Another said, "Can you imagine what it would be like if your children were unable to be educated? The luxury of elementary schools can indeed be taken for granted." These students know that helping girls and boys throughout the world, particularly in war-torn or impoverished countries, is one of the investments we can make.